

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

April 1st, 2013

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. expectations	a) double; when two things/programs have the same goal
	2. reduce	b) greatly needed
	3. duplication	c) what others believe you will or should do
	4. administrative	d) to stop
	5. review	e) to decrease
	6. in demand	f) management and duties required to run a program
	7. employers	g) results; effects of certain actions
	8. cut	h) money going to support a program or organization
	9. funding	i) to look carefully at; to look at a second time
	10. consequences	j) people who own or run a business

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

post-secondary education – university and college education, after grade 12

Advanced Education Minister – elected person in charge of university and college education

board of governors – a group of people who make decisions for an organization

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Alberta's government is making big changes to _____.	a) the post-secondary education system b) the education system
2. The Advanced Education Minister sent a letter to _____ explaining the expectations.	a) to the 26 organization in the province b) the 26 colleges and universities in Alberta
3. Universities and colleges must work together to _____ and administrative costs.	a) reduce program duplication b) reduce extra spending
4. The university must review programs to see if _____ employers and students.	a) they are in demand by b) they work together with
5. The new provincial budget cut _____ by 6.8%.	a) spending on extra programs b) funding for universities
6. The U of A's board of directors is warning of serious consequences for _____.	a) employers and employees b) staff and students

Discussion Question

How do you think cutting money to post-secondary education will affect Alberta's future?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

popular (much liked)	respected (someone thought of well by others)
traded (exchanged)	speculation (have an opinion without facts)
long-time (over a long period of time)	go down in history (be remembered for a long time)
emotions (feelings)	all-time (never done before)

1. Our teacher is highly _____ by all of the students.
2. My son is a _____ supporter of Manchester United soccer team.
3. My brother is the most _____ player on the team.
4. I was sad when the Calgary Stampeders _____ my favourite player for a younger player from the Montreal Alouettes.
5. People have strong _____ about their favourite sports teams.
6. I have heard a lot of _____ among my family members about when my sister will get married.
7. The _____ leader in scoring goals for the Calgary Flames is Jarome Iginla.
8. Wayne Gretzky will _____ as the most popular player for the Edmonton Oilers.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Extra vocabulary to help you understand the listening:

draft pick: A player chosen during the yearly selection process for junior players

forwards: Attacking players who try to score goals

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. _____ People in Calgary have been thinking about Jarome Iginla's future for some time now.
2. _____ Jarome Iginla has been traded to the Montreal Canadiens.
3. _____ The Calgary Flames received two players and a draft pick in exchange for Jarome Iginla.
4. _____ Jarome Iginla has been captain of the Flames since 2003.
5. _____ Jarome's nickname among fans is Jerry.
6. _____ Iginla is the all-time leader in points, goals and games for the Flames.

Discussion Question

Do you think supporting the local sports teams is important? Have you ever watched the Calgary Flames play? Are you a hockey fan?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

The words below are from the second news story. Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning that best match each of the vocabulary words). *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) loan	a) people community everyone
	2) furry	b) give temporarily advance credit
	3) arrive	c) husband / wife companion friend
	4) specially	d) show display performance
	5) mate	e) get in show up land
	6) public	f) hairy soft fuzzy
	7) exhibit	g) specifically importantly uniquely

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

prospective – possible solution in the future

outfitted – made with special equipment

quarantine – when entering a country some animals or plants must spend a certain amount of time alone (**kept away** from the public) to prevent the spread of disease

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Who loaned Canada 2 panda bears?
2. Who greeted the pandas at the airport on Monday?
3. What do the pandas look like? How old are they?
4. How did the bears get to Canada?
5. Where will the pandas be until the exhibit opens?
6. How long will the pandas stay in Toronto and Calgary?

Discussion Question

Would you like to see the pandas when they come to Alberta? Why or why not?

Language Focus

Simple sentences and Compound sentences

Simple sentences – are made up of a subject, a verb and must have one complete thought.

Compound sentences – have two independent clauses (two complete sentences), joined with a coordinating conjunction.

Coordinating conjunctions: and, but, so, for, or, nor, yet

We use coordinating conjunctions to join two simple sentences together to make a compound sentence. Please note, we should not begin a sentence with a coordinating conjunction, it must come in the middle of a sentence. Each coordinating conjunction shows a different relationship between the two simple sentences being joined. Can you see the relationships?

Let's look at some examples related to our news stories this week.

Simple sentences: Two giant pandas arrived in Canada.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper greeted them at the airport.

Compound sentence: Two giant pandas arrived in Canada **and** Prime Minister Stephen Harper greeted them at the airport.

Simple sentences: The pandas arrived on Monday.

The pandas will be kept away from the public until the exhibit opens.

Compound sentence: The pandas arrived on Monday, **but** the pandas will be kept away from the public until the exhibit opens.

Simple sentences: The pandas must be quarantined for 30 days.

No one can see the pandas until after the quarantine.

Compound sentence: The pandas must be quarantined for 30 days, **so** no one can see them.

'and' – is used when the two sentences we are joining are equal or they occur in that order of time.

'but' – is used to join two sentences in which the second sentence show a contrast or negative information.

'so' – is used to join two sentences when the first sentence is a cause and the second sentence is the effect.

Try to use compound sentences to write about one of the news stories this week.

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MARCH 29 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Carla Beynon. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for March 29 th .	0:00
Story 1	The government is making big changes to Alberta's post-secondary education system. Advanced Education Minister Thomas Lukaszuk says change must happen. Lukaszuk has sent a letter to the province's 26 colleges and universities to explain the expectations. In the letter, colleges and universities are told to work together to reduce program duplication and administrative costs. They must also review programs to see if they are in demand by employers and students. The recent provincial budget cut funding for universities by 6.8 %. The U of A's board of governors is warning of serious consequences for both staff and students.	0:09
Story 2	One of the most popular and respected players in Calgary Flames history has been traded. The Flames ended months of speculation on Wednesday night by trading longtime captain Jarome Iginla to the Pittsburgh Penguins. In return, the Flames get two college forwards from the United States and Pittsburgh's 2013 draft pick. Iginla, who has been captain of the Flames since 2003, says he is leaving with mixed emotions. Flames fans, who know him as "Iggy", are wishing him all the best and are now worried about what this means for their team. Iginla goes down in history as the all-time team leader in points, goals, and games played.	01:00
Story 3	They're finally here -- two giant pandas on loan to Canada from China have arrived in Toronto. Prime Minister Stephen Harper was at the airport on Monday to welcome the furry black and white animals to the country. Five-year-old Er Shun and her prospective mate, four-year-old Da Mao, arrived in the "Panda Express," a specially outfitted FedEx Express plane with a big picture of a panda on it. The pandas will be quarantined for 30 days and kept away from the public until a special exhibit opens. The pandas will live for five years at the Toronto Zoo before being moved to the Calgary Zoo for another five years.	01:50

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
c	1. expectations	a) double; when two things/programs have the same goal
e	2. reduce	b) greatly needed
a	3. duplication	c) what others believe you will or should do
f	4. administrative	d) to stop
i	5. review	e) to decrease
b	6. in demand	f) management and duties required to run a program
j	7. employers	g) results; effects of certain actions
d	8. cut	h) money going to support a program or organization
h	9. funding	i) to look carefully at; to look at a second time
g	10. consequences	j) people who own or run a business

Listening

1. Alberta's government is making big changes to _____.	a) the post-secondary education system b) the education system
2. The Advanced Education Minister sent a letter to _____ explaining the expectations.	a) to the 26 organization in the province b) the 26 colleges and universities in Alberta
3. Universities and colleges must work together to _____ and administrative costs.	a) reduce program duplication b) reduce extra spending
4. The university must review programs to see if _____ employers and students.	a) they are in demand by b) they work together with
5. The new provincial budget cut _____ by 6.8%.	a) spending on extra programs b) funding for universities
6. The U of A's board of directors is warning of serious consequences for _____.	a) employers and employees b) staff and students

News story 2

Vocabulary

1. Our teacher is highly respected by all of the students.
2. My son is a long-time supporter of Manchester United soccer team.
3. My brother is the most popular player on the team.
4. I was sad when the Calgary Stampeders traded my favourite player for a younger player from the Montreal Alouettes.

5. People have strong emotions about their favourite sports teams.
6. I have heard a lot of speculation among my family members about when my sister will get married.
7. The all-time leader in scoring goals for the Calgary Flames is Jarome Iginla.
8. Wayne Gretzky will go down in history as the most popular player for the Edmonton Oilers.

Listening

1. T People in Calgary have been thinking about Jarome Iginla's future for some time now.
2. F Jarome Iginla has been traded to the Montreal Canadiens.
3. T The Calgary Flames received two players and a draft pick in exchange for Jarome Iginla.
4. T Jarome Iginla has been captain of the Flames since 2003.
5. F Jarome's nickname among fans is Jerry.
6. T Iginla is the all-time leader in points, goals and games for the Flames.

News story 3

Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
b	1) loan	a) people community everyone
f	2) furry	b) give temporarily advance credit
e	3) arrive	c) husband / wife companion friend
g	4) specially	d) show display performance
c	5) mate	e) get in show up land
a	6) public	f) hairy soft fuzzy
d	7) exhibit	g) specifically importantly uniquely

Listening

1. Who loaned Canada 2 panda bears? *China loaned Canada 2 giant pandas.*
2. Who greeted the pandas at the airport on Monday? *Prime Minister Stephen Harper was at the airport on Monday to welcome the bears.*
3. What do the pandas look like? How old are they? *The pandas are furry black and white animals. The female is 5 years old and the male is four years old.*
4. How did the bears get to Canada? *They arrived on the "Panda Express," a specially outfitted FedEx Express plane with a big pictures of a panda on it.*
5. Where will the pandas be until the exhibit opens? *The pandas will be quarantined for 30 days and kept away from the public until the special exhibit opens.*
6. How long will the pandas stay in Toronto and Calgary? *The pandas will be at the Toronto Zoo for 5 years and then at the Calgary Zoo for 5 years.*